NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1874.

VOL. XXXIII No. 10,285.

THE SYSTEM OF SPIES.

A REFORM MEASURE. REFRESENTATIVE WOODFORD'S BILL AGREED TO B THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE.

ISY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, March 19 .- The House Committee on the Civil Service agreed to-day to report Mr. Woodford's bill creating a commission to prepare simplified code of Custom-house laws and regulations, to be reported to the President, and by him laid before Congress at its next session. This bill is not intended to supersede or hinder the passage of any special measures for the immediate reformation of Custom-house abuses. After all is accomplished that is possible in this direction during the present session, Mr. Woodford's bill will open the way for a thorough and systematic reform to be made next Winter, by striking at the root of many of the evils complained of, and providing a plain, simple and comprehensive code in place of the present mass of conflicting laws, decisions, and regulations. GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.

The Committee on Reform in the Civil Service, to-day, agreed to report with amendments Mr. Woodford's bill to provide for a commission for the reorganization of the customs revenue service of the United States. As amended, the bill enacts that, within ten days after its passage, the President shail, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint three commissioners, of whom at least one shall have been an importing merchant, whose duty it shall be to codify, simplify, and arrange all the laws of the United States and regulations of the Treasury Department, with regard to importations from foreign countries and the collection of duties thereon; for a reasonable reduction of allowances to officials and informers, and for providing proper saleguards in respect to the seizure of beeks and papers. That such commissioners shall be required to present their report to the President on or before the first day of November, 1874, in order that he may transmit the same, with any recommendations thereon, to the present Congress at the opening of its second session; and that such commissioners shall each receive a salary at the rate of \$5,000 per annum, and shall be allowed to appoint such clerks as they may require, which said clerks shall jointly receive a compensation not exceeding \$5,000. Said commissioners shall report their disbursements in detail with vouchers.

THE INVESTIGATION RESUMED.

STATEMENT BY JUDGE NOAH DAVIS-THE OPERATION OF THE LAW IN THE CASE OF PHELPS, DODGE & CO.-FROPOSED MODIFICATIONS.

INV TELEGRAPH TO THE PRIBUNE. Washington, March 19 .- The further considera tion of the question of moicties was resumed this morning before the Committee of Ways and Means. Judge Noah Davis appeared and began an explanatien in regard to his connection, as District-Attorney, with the case of Phelps, Dodge & Co. He also said that the principal difficulty arose from the peculiar operation of the law, by which a person was required to give in his invoice the value of the goods he imported at the time and place of shipment. unless they were experied by the owner, in which case he must give the contract price, if higher than the market value, at the time of the shipment. The Government had prebably received a considerably large sum by over valuations from Phelps, Dodge & Co. than it had lest by under valuations; but notwithstanding this, the entire amount of the invoices in which any item was undervalued, was forfeited. He further stated that it was necessary, in order to understand the merits of this case, to keep clearly in view the distinction between legal and actual fraud. The law, in the penalties which it inflicted, made no difference between persons who had unintentionally

He commented upon one case, which District Attorney Bliss said had been twice decided by juries in favor of the Government, and subsequently the penalty had been remitted by the Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Davis said that in the first trial the Government was represented by an assistant, the defendant having no counsel and the jury disagreeing. The second time it was argued by himself for the Government, and by able counsel for the defendant, but the jury were instructed by the Judge that they must find for the Government on the facts admitted, as there had been legal fraud. As there was no fraudulent intent, the Secretary very properly remitted the judgment.

violated it and those who had violated it with in

tent to defrand the Government.

To-morrow morning Mr. Davis will be examined by the Committee in regard to the working of the law and two modifications proposed by him-first, that the actual value at the time of shipment should in all cases be the invoice price; second, that the jury in any case before the court should decide whether any actual fraud had been committed, or only technical violation of the law, without any guilty intent. In the former, the verdict of the jury to be final, without any power of remission by the Secretary of the Treasury; in the other, such power to be given to him.

THE STATEMENT OF JUDGE NOAH DAVIS UIS CONNECTION WITH THE CASE OF PHELPS, DODGE & CO .- SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE MODIFICA-TION OF THE LAW FOR THE SEIZURE OF BOOKS

AND PAPERS. [GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.] Washington, March 19.-Judge Noah Davis

made an elaborate statement before the Committee or Ways and Means to-day, giving his knowledge of an connection with the Phelps, Dodge & Co. case. At the request of the Custom-bouse authorities, he examined the documents and statement laid before him by Mr. Jayne, and gave his opinion that it was a case that justified further examination. He then arranged with the authorities that the application for a warrant to scize should be kept under his control, and should not be served unless the firm should refuse to exhibit their books and papers after an interview with them. Obtaining the warrant the next morning, he went to the Custom-house, when Mr. Dodge and Mr. James came there, and he stated to them the nature of the charges, and said the evidence laid before him justified the in vestigation. They expressed great astonishment at the charges, and declared their entire innocence of any fraud and want of knowledge of any violation of the statute. They said their books and papers were at the service of the Government for any examination they might choose to make. Judge Davis said the warrant should not be that Mr. Javne and other persons connected with him would go to the store and receive from the firm such books and papers as might be required. They assented to this, and Mr. Jayne went to the store for the purpose mentioned. Mr. Jayne read them the statutes which he alleged they had violated, and the form of the caths, and stated to them that in taking the oath in tha form the persons who made the entries had committed perjury, and showed them the penalties in such cases, but did not make any threats, except such as might be implied from what he had done.

On Dec. 20 he was sent for by Mr. Jayne to come to the Aster House and there found Jayne and the counsel of Phelps, Dodge & Co., negotiating a settlement. Mr. Jayne said a proposition had been made which he could not accept, according to the Judge's recollection about \$140,000. Mr. Jayne said he had sent for the Judge to in quire in what manner the matter could be closed up at the specific sum and the payment of that amount in full but suggested that there might be a basis of settlement on the articles sileged to be actually affected by the alleged fraud. Mr. Jayne was then requested by cour sel for Phelps, Dodge & Co. to ascertain the value of such articles. He did so, and reported the same to be about \$260,000. Jayne reported to counsel for the firm, conclusion to pay the amount to close the matter at once. It was arranged to do this on the evening of Dec. 30. The next morning Judge Davis had an appointme with Mr. Bliss in respect to cases then on the calcudar

for trial, and of which Bliss would thereafter have charge. During the consultation he received a note from Mr. Jayne, requesting to see him. At the close of the consultation he said to Mr. Bliss:

the consultation he said to Mr. Bliss:

I am now going down to the Custom-house to close up, as I suppose, the heaviest case that has ever arisen in this district, the arrangement for settlement of which was made last night, and it was to have been settled then. The services of this office have all been rendered, and I suppose I am as much entitled to the fees as if the services had been rendered six months ago; but rather than you should think I have neglected other matters for the purpose of hurrying up the case to get a large fee just at the close of my term, I propose you go down with me and participate in closing the case and take one-half the fee.

Mr. Bliss was much surprised, and said after a few

Mr. Bliss was much surprised, and said, after a few noments' pause :

Judge, since you have made that proposition, I feel bound to tell you that the case will not be closed up to-day. I was informed last night what took place at the Astor House, and I was at the Collector's house till a late hour, and I know it is not to be settled to-day. They have been playing double with you. Somebody—I will not tell you who—has been carrying water on both shoulders. I think I won't go down with you.

Mr. Bliss then left the office, and Judge Davis repaire to the Custom-house. He went into a room in the Naval Office and found the Collector, Surveyor, Naval Officer, and Jayne together. Jayne said he wished to ask Judg Davis about decisions made construing the statute of

I am ready to give you advice, but I wish it to be un-derstood before doing so that I will have no fees and no part of fees in this case. The fees, if any, are to go to my successor, whether the case is settled to-day or herepart of fees in this c

the case, in his opinion, was one in which no jury would ever give a verdlet unless by special direction of the Court; that counsel for Phelps, Dodge & Co. were pressing the settlement, and, if they looked to their own in terest, they had better accept a compromise. He had no consultation with Mr. Bliss in relation to the case or the fees, other than the one in his office. He neve the fees, other than the one in his office. He never spoke to him about the character of the case nor as to dividing the fees except as above stafed. He had not at that time any knowledge or idea that Bliss knew anything of the case, or had claimed to have any interest in it wiratever. Judge Davis said that Bliss, on that morning (Dec. 30), had privately taken the eath of office, which fact was wholly unknown to him. The custom had been for the retiring Attorney to appear in court to present the commission of his successor, and to move that he be sworn in. No suit was ever begun by Judge Davis in the Phelps, Dodge & Co. ease. No money was ever paid to him. He had received no money directly or indirectly by or through any one. A few days after Judge Davis retired from the office of District-Attorney, Mr. Dodge called at his house to have some conversation about the case. Judge Davis could not say anything as counsel or attorney, but he would say to him, as he would to his own brother, that they ought to contest the case and fight it out to the end. Mr. Dodge at that time explained to Judge Davis the reasons that induced them to let the settlement go on. When Mr. Dodge requested Judge Davis to write a letter, he looked further into the case and became more fully satisfied that there had never been any intentional fraud.

Judge Davis proceeded to show how the error was committed in the invoices and entries, and the effect of the law and decisions of courts in such cases, making suggestions as to changes in the law, and as to the proper mode of ascertaining actual intention to defrand, to be determined by a jury, and where actual fraud was found by a jury the Secretary of the Treasury should spoke to him about the character of the case nor as

to be determined by a jury, and where actual fraud was found by a jury the Secretary of the Treasury should have no never of revision. The statement is to be continued to morrow.

FINES AND PENALTIES COLLECTED IN NEW-YORK.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 19.-The statement of the fines and penalties collected by the Customs authorities at New-York and Boston, from Nov. 30, 1873, to March 1, 1874, was laid before the House to-day. The following appear to have been the principal sufferers

in New-York:

Woodruff & Robinson#50.00e
Lord & Taylor 15,559
J. M. Davis & Co. 17,555
Strapper & Strents. 14,654
Hitchcock & Potter. 2,603
Edward Casade et al. 3,119

Amount paid.

R. C. McCormack. \$2,642
Wm. Dudou et al. 3,000
J. S. Lirvey et al. 9,168
U. S. agt. Harris et al 23,250
U. S. agt. Yard et al. 5,000

HIS OPINION OF THE COLLECTOR, SECRETARY OF THE

TREASURY, JUDGE DAVIS, AND THE MERCHANTS GENERALLY-CONVICTIONS IN COURT IMPOSSIBLE. On the conclusion of his late address before the Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. George Bliss r., was subjected to a rigid cross-examination which has not previously been published, and which was not obtainable until Mr. Bliss had carefully revised the stenographer's notes. examination are well worth publication at this late day. It will be remembered that Collector Arthur and cer ain fellow-officials of the Custom-house declined to an pear at Washington on the ground that they knew no facts to tell, and Mr. Bliss apologized for them by saying he probably knew more than all the others combined. This probably suggested the following line of inquiry:

CISTON-HOUSE QUALIFICATIONS.

Q. (By Mr. Dawes)—If the Collector, Surveyor, and Naval Officer should say to the Committee that they had so hitle to do win the matter that they could not hrow any light on any of the cases reported here, should con say that they would be entitled to very much compensation! A. If they should say so I should think it was a very extraordinary statement, Sir; I do not think because will so.

ensition I Array and a statement, Sir; I do not that as a very extraordinary statement, Sir; I do not that see have said so.

Q. I suppose the oldest is to attain the greatest amount efficiency and fidelity, is it not, in the administration the law! A. I presume so.
Q. Do you think that giving them just one-half of it

would be reaching the exact point which secures the reatest fidelity and efficiency? A. They do not get How would it be if we should give them just one

Q. How would it be if we should give them just one alift A. I think that would be too much.

Q. From your knowledge of the anninistration of the aw, have you arrived at just the point at which you bluk the greatest efficiency would be obtained in any zeen officers. A. No. Sir; if I were fixing the interest of he Customs officers in the proceeds of fines, penalties and forfeitures, I think I should fix them on a sliding zele.

What do you mean by that? A. I would give a larger percentage where the amount recovered was small, and a smaller percentage where the amount re-covered was large. Preci-cly what the percentage should be or where the line should be drawn I never have thought.

Q. Do you think that you could secure in your court the conviction of a Custom-boase officer for bribery if the evidence were clear and conclusive i A. Yes, I wish Leads.

the evidence were clear and conclusive! A. Yes, I think I could.

Q. Has Mr. Jayne ever reported to you, since you have been District-Attorney, any Custom-house official who has confessed to him that he has received bribes! A. No, Sir; he has said to me that he thought isome person would give information; I think he said on one occasion that some person would give information if he had assurance that he would not be presecuted, and I mink I told him that if the information were of the value he thought it would be. I would be prepared, as prosecuting officer, to give the information.

Q. He never has told you that Customs officers generally confess to him when he puts the matter straight at them!

COULD MERCHANTS BE CONVICTED IN COURT ? The case of Phelps, Dodge & Co. had been aliuded to and something had been said about the probable result had they gone to trial. Hence the following questions

and answers:

and answers:

Q. Do you think that you could secure the conviction of a merchant for making a frandulent involee if the evidence were clear? A. I should doubt very much whether that could be done.

Q. Have you tried the experiment? A. No, Sir; I could explain matters to you.

Q. Then since you have been District-Attorney there have been no attempts to prosecute, on the criminal side of the Court, any of these merchants for violation of the awf A. No. Sir.

Q. However plain the evidence might have been?

Q. By the Chairman, Mr. Kelley-Did you not mer A. No. Sir.

Q. By the Chairman, Mr. Kelley—Did you not mention one case of the kind this morning? A. I mentioned the case where an attempt has been made before a grand jury; in many cases there is not any ground for a criminal proceeding that I know of against the merchant, although he has incurred the forfeiture of his goods by undervaluation; I mean there is not any ground on which you could successfully go to the court on a criminal charge, as I can show you.

Q. By Mr. Dawes—You have not quite reached my question! A. I was simply going on to show that in many cases no criminal offense has been committed.

Q. I suppose that if a man has knowingly made a false invoice he has committed a criminal offense! A. I do not consider that that necessarily follows.

Q. If a merchant knows that his invoice is false when he makes an earty at the Castom-house under oath, what other element is necessary! A. Perhaps the merchant does not take the oath at the Custom-house; that is frequently the case.

what older element is necessary. A custom nouse; that is frequently the case.

Q. It he makes the involce himself, he takes the oath!

A. The invoice is sent to him from the other side.

Q. I am not supposing a case that has two ends to it;
I am supposing a case of a man who sciually makes his own entry, and makes it knowing it to be false, and I ask, is there any other element in that except callty knowledge! A. If he takes the oath, and goes through the whole thing himself, I think he has committed a crime; but my ladgment is that it would be very difficult to convict him.

Q. I heard you say that on the civil side of the court the judge has fold the jury that two things were necessary; first, that the invoice must be false, and then that the merchant mist know that it is false! A. Yes.

Q. Then the judge has always told the jury in the civil proceedings just what it is necessary to find in order to maintain a criminal prosecution! A. Practically so:

Sec Fills Page.

WASHINGTON.

THE DISTRICT INVESTIGATION. STATEMENTS BY DISTRICT OFFICIALS REGARDING THE EXPENDITURE OF THE SCHOOL FUND-AN RIALISTS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 19,-After announcing the onclusions arrived at during its secret session yes terday, Mr. Allison's District Investigating Committee listened to some further statements by the repre sentatives of the District Government, and a reply by Judge Merrick, representing the memorialists, touching the expenditure of the School funds. The examination on this point developed little that was new, but rather corroborated the evidence heretofore given. To understand fully the position in which this branch of the investigation is now left, a ew words of explanation are necessary.

When the present District Government came into power the old Corporations of the Cities of Washington and Georgetown and the County of Washington had certain liabilities, and among them were debts for new school-houses, wages of teachers, contingent expenses, etc. Beside these the old Corporations had made certain contracts out of which valid claims arose after the present District Government came into power. It would not, of course, have been just to require the new Government to pay these liabilities out of the current taxes after it came into power, but it did so pay them out of its current receipts, or out of the money which it borrowed. Afterwards, a settlement of all accounts between the old corporations and the new government took place, and a payment by the representatives of the former to the latter of \$600,000 of bonds of the City of Washington, and more than \$300,000 of money was made, by which the present District Government was reimbursed for the money it had thus paid out. But this transaction has nothing whatever to do with the expenditure of the school fund collected since June 30, 1871. The money advanced to pay these liabilities has been returned to the present Government in the form either of money or bonds, and the account stands just as though the money had never been advanced.

The question raised by the Committee'is, what has been done with the money collected for school purposes by the present Government, and which could not be lawfully diverted to any other purpose ! Judge Merrick showed this morning that on page 71 of the Governor's answer to questions submitted by the Committee, the Controller of the District reported baving received on account of the school fund from collections under the tax levies for three years, and from other sources, in the City of Washington, \$546,684 26: in the City of Georgetown the amount received for the same fund was \$61,536 27; and in the county, the amount was \$63,639 48, making a total of \$671,800 01. The expenditures were, according to the same report, for schools and teachers in Washington \$508,012 62; in Georgetown, \$77,749 23; and in the county, \$71,433 80; smaking a total of \$657.195 65. This leaves a balance due the schools of \$14,604 26. But these payments were not all made from the taxes collected and from the fines received from the criminal courts. Twenty thousand dollars of the school-house fund n Georgetown was borrowed, and \$10,777 56 used in the county was paid in bonds for debts on account of school buildings. This makes the amount due the school fund \$45,381 92.

Whenever the District Government is asked to xplain this, they begin to talk about the debts of the old corporations as though those had not been provided for from other funds, and to-day they filed an itemizad statement, in which they put into the same account the amounts paid for the old corperations and under the present Government, and then, by giving the schools no credit for the amount received by the present Government from the old corporations on their account, and charging to them all that was paid out on account of the old corporation's llabilities, they make the School fund indebted to the District Government \$173,000. But all of their explanations have not yet touched the fact that there is \$45,000 school money which has not been expended or that the Governor's report is iacomplete.

(GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.) On the assembling of the District Investigating Committee to-day the Chairman, Mr. Allisen, an- He had evidence that the Pacific Railroad had overmeed that the Committee had made a ruling. substance as follows, namely: That they will, in their discretion issue subpenas duces tecum, to compel the production of private papers, provided there be first filed with the Committee an affidavit of some person, or a professional written statement of counsel, averring to the best of his knowledge the existence of such papers, and showing that they are material evidence in the investigation with which such Committee are charged. The Committee will then decide as to the advisability of issuing the subpenas asked for. It was also announced that the Committee will not be restricted to such charges and specifications as the memorialists may choose to submit, but will take such action and send for such persons and papers as may be necessary and proper to secure a thorough and impartial investigation of all matters embraced in the resolution of the Senate and House of Repreentatives creating the Committee.

An examination of the school fund question the ensued, in which various members of the Committee. the Counsel on both sides and Gov. Shepherd engaged in argumentative conversation, but nothing new was elicited and the Committee took a reces

After the recess the Committee examined William Ballantyne, to ascertain under what authority he provided turniture for the District School. He tesified that he made the bargain and completed the furniture under a verbal order of the School trustees of the old corporation of Washington, such having

been the practice at that time. Subsequently, before the furniture was delivered. the new District government having been established, he procured from Gov. Cooke a written order to make himself entirely secure, under the verbal order of the old authorities, for whom he had nearly fulfilled the contract. The Committee then adourned until to-morrow.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL. THE TRANSPORTATION BILL.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 19, 1874. A number of members are disposed to favor Judge Holman's proposed amendment to the McCrary Transportation bill, which provides that the Railway Commissioners, instead of being appointed by the President, shall be engineer officers of high rank, who have had large experience in the construction of public works. It is feared that if the Commissioners were selected in the way other important appointments are made they would either be broken-down politicians, hungry for office, or tools of the railroad power, which would unquestionably make an effort to influence their selection or control their action after their appointment. If, on the contrary, the Board should be made up of distinguished engineer officers, who have had control of the disbursement of millions of dollars for river and harbor improvements and have always been above suspicion or repreach, the country would have confidence that the law would be faithfully executed. The bill will not come up again until next Tuesday, unless there should be a Saturday session for debate upon it. Mr. McCrary said to-day that he hoped to reach a vote after two days' further discussion. The general feeling in the House upon the subject continues to be that something ought to be done in response to the demands of the Grangers, but that neither this nor any other bill effected exactly meets the case. The redeeming feature of and reasonable freight rates into the courts, and I

puts upon the railroad companies the burden of proof in case they are not satisfied with the tariffs prescribed by the Commissioners and maintain that they are too low. If the bill gave the Commissioners absolute power to fix and enforce rates, as was at first proposed, it would get very few votes.

ECONOMICAL MEASURES IN THE HOUSE. It is the era of small things in Congress, and, it might be added, of small men. Nearly the whole of to-day was spent by the House in discussing the proper strength of the Capitol police force, and excited arguments were made on the question whether the force should have two lieutenants or three, and whether 20 privates would not be sufficient instead of 27. A Pennsylvania member tried to awaken sympathy for the policemen by saving that they were obliged to remain in the building after the fires were put out, and that their health often suffered from the chilly atmosphere, whereupon an Ohio member ridiculed this pathetic appeal by contrasting the condition of these guardians of the Capitol, who are comfortably housed at all times, with that of city policemen, who, for about half the pay, must be out in all weathers. All the attempts of the economists to reduce the number or salaries of the employés about the Capitol failed: so did an effort to strike at the mileage abuse by cutting down the appropriation for this purpose—an impracticable method, which would only result in creating a deficiency, for as long as the present mileage law remains unchanged, a failure to appropriate the necessary amount to pay all the members their mileage would not take away their right to demand and receive it at a future session.

THE APPRAISEMENT OF MERCHANDISE. The bill to provide for the appraisement of merchandise in certain cases, passed by the Senate this morning, is the one introduced by Senator Boutwell on Jan. 16 last. It provides that whenever any goods, wares, or merchandise shall be imposted by the manufacturer or producer thereof, or when the appraiser shall be of the opinion that the invoice of any goods, wares, or merchandise does not correspond with the market value of such goods, wares, or merchandise at the place of shipment, although such invoice may state truly the cost of such goods, wares, or merchandise, it shall be the duty of the appraisers to fix the actual market value of such goods, wares, or metchandise at the place of shipment at the date of the exportation, by ascertaining the value of the same or of goods of a similar character manufactured or produced by other manufacturers or producers, or sold to other bona fide purchasers in open market.

AN IMPORTANT LUMBER CASE. The case of the United States against Cook, on certificate of division from the Circuit Court for Wisconsin, argued in the Supreme Court to-day, presents the question whether the United States can replevin lumber or logs in the hands of a third person, to whom they have been sold by individual Indians from the reservation of the tribe. The Government insists that as the land from which the trees are cut is still in its original condition as Indian land, and as the Indians cutting them are land, and as the Indians cutting them are tribal Indians, they could pass no title to the per-sons taking from them. The Indians have the right of occupancy only, and this right is vested in the tribe and not in individuals. Such Indians have no power to sell timber off the reservations. As stand-ing timber it belonged to the Government, subject only to the tribal interest in it as a covert for game, and to the right or the tribe as such to order the land to be cleared for purposes of agriculture when THE CHARGES AGAINST COMMISSIONER BAKER.

Commissioner of Pensions Baker to-day presented to the Speaker of the House his official reply to the recent charges made against him. He answers at some length the several charges, and asserts that the persons concerned in the assault upon him were all dismissed from his office, either for willful neglect of duty or nefarious conduct. To the charge that his military record was faulty he replied by official minitary record was faulty he replied by official testimony from the War Department positively considering it, and showing that he was commended and promoted for his action in the specific case quoted by his accusers. To the remaining charges he gives full and specific answers, asserting their falsity, and makes an argument with regard to the injustice, as well as the demoralizing effect upon the public service, of permitting public officers to be arraigned by discharged clerks and others, without the support either of compotent testimony or ort either of competent testimony or

FURTHER INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE SANBORN CONTRACTS.

The name of the gentleman who first tried to obtain a contract under the law for the collection of moneys due the Government is Pennery of Kansas. lions. He offered to contract to collect at 50 per cent for the first \$100,000, and 25 per cent for all ever that sum. Secretary Richardson to-day wrote in answer to a member of the Ways and Means Committee that the man who had been traveling about the country collecting taxes, and signing him-self Special State Auditor of the Treasury, was not known to the Treasury Department in any official capacity whatever, but as an employé of Sanborn

A LADY NOMINATED AND CONFIRMED AS PEN-

SION AGENT AT CHICAGO. Miss Ada C. Sweet, who was nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate to-day to be Pension Agent at Chicago, vice Biakely, resigned, is the daughter of the late Gen. B. J. Sweet, First Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue. The President has heretofore declined to appoint ladies to responsible disbursing positions, but the ability of Miss Sweet in the administration of the Chicago office while her father was Pension Agent, before he was appointed Deputy Commissioner, induced the President to make an exception in her favor. The Senate confirmed the nomination without the usual reference to a committee.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 19, 1874 The Senate Committee on Commerce this morning agreed to recommend an appropriation of \$50,000 the purpose of continuing the hydrographic work of the Navy Department. This action is prompted by and in accordance with petitions numerously signed by Presidents of insurance companies and prominent ship-owners of New-York City, setting forth the great im-portance of this service to the interests of commerce and navigation. It consists of surveys of reefs, shoals rocks, &c., on foreign coasts, particularly in the Pacific Ocean, and the publication of charts for the benefit of

In the Howard Court of Inquiry to-day Second Controller Broadhead, Second Auditor French, and Third Auditor Rutherford were examined regarding the rules governing disbursing officers of the army while Gen. Howard was Commissioner of the Freedman's Bureau, and made responsible under the act of March 29, 1867, the same as other disbursing officers. To-morrow the Court will hear the testimony of Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

The appointment of Edward F. Dunn to be Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona has been erro-Justice of the Supreme court of Arizona masses are neously credited in some quarters to West Virginia instead of Nevada. The comments of West Virginia papers reflecting on the Senators from that State for the appointment of one not known to be a citizen of that State, though credited to it, are therefore based on misapprehension.

According to Gen. Alien, Chief Quartermaster of the military Division of the Pacific, the additional expense imposed upon the Quartermaster's Department by the Medoc war was \$35,000. Gen. Allen's letter making this statement has been sent to the House by the Secretary of War.

The recent expulsion of the correspondent of a Michi gan journal from the Senate reporters' gallery was not, as has been intimated, the individual action of Senator Ferry of Michigan, but was the unanimous action of the Senate Committee on Eules, comprising, besides Mr. Ferry, Messrs. Hamlin of Maine and Merrimon of North Secretary Belknap recommends an appropriation of

\$292,600 tot buy 209 Gatling guns and carriages as an auxiliary armament of the fortifications of the country. The First National Bank of this city will to-morrow pay a second dividend of 20 per cent, making a total of to per cent thus far paid. [For Requier Report of Congressional Proceedings see Second Page.]

A NEW PLANET.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: A new planet has been discovered by Palisa at Berlin, in 12 hours 21 minutes right ascension; 30 0 south declination; magnitude 11; JOSEPH HENRY.

Wackington, Murch 19, 1874.

FOREIGN NEWS.

OPENING OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT. EXT OF THE QUEEN'S SPEECH-THE PORRIGN RELA-TIONS-LEGISLATION TO BE PROPOSED-BILL FOR REMOVING THE DELAYS ATTENDING UPON THE TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE-BILL TO BE INTRO-DUCED AMENDING THE BILLS AFFECTING THE SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

LONDON, Thursday, March 19, 1874. Parliament reassembled to-day. Shortly after the opening the members of the House of Commons vere summoned to the chamber of the Peers to hear the Queen's speech read. It was as follows:

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN: I recur to your advice at the earliest period permitted by the arrangement consequent upon the retirement of the late Administra-

My foreign relations continue most friendly, and I shall not fail to exercise the influence arising from these rordial relatious for the maintenance of European peace and the faithful observance of international obli-

The marriage of my son is at once a source of happy ness to myself and a pledge of friendship between two

The Ashantee war has terminated in the capture and destruction of the capital, and negotiations which, trust, may lead to a more satisfactory condition of af ance of my forces and the energy and skill evinced in the conduct of the expedition have brilliantly main-tained, under the most trying circumstances, the traditionary reputation of the British army.

I deeply regret that drouth has affected the most populous previnces of the Indian Empire, and produced extreme scarcity-in some parts amounting to actual famine-over an area inhabited by many millions. I have directed the Governor-General of India to spare no cost in striving to mitigate this terrible calamity. GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS: The esti-

nates for expenditures during the coming financial year will be forthwith submitted to you. MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN: The delay and expens attending the transfer of land in England have long been felt to be a reproach to our law and a serious obstacle to dealings in real property. I trust measures which will now be submitted for your consideration will be found

calculated to remove much of the evil which is complained of.

You will probably be of the opinion that the rearrange ment of the judicature and the blending of the adminis tration of law and equity, which were effected in En giand by the enactment of last session, ought to be extended to Ireland. You will be asked to devote part of your time to the accomplishment of this object. The greater part of these changes are inapplicable to tribunals in Scotland, but you will be invited to consider the most satisfactory mode of bringing procedure upon Scottish appeals into harmony with recent legislation.

Among other measures relating specially to Scottish interests, a bill amending the law relating to land rights and facilitating the transfer of land will be laid before

Serious differences have arisen and remonstrance been made by large classes of the community as to the working of the recent act affecting the relationship between master and servant; of the act of 1871 dealing with offenses connected with trade, and of the law of conspiracy. On these subjects I am desirous that, before attempting fresh legislation, you should be in possession of all the material facts and of the precise questions in controversy. For this purpose I have issued my Royal Commission of Inquiry into the state and working of the present laws, with a view to their early amond

ment if found necessary.

A bill will be introduced dealing with such parts of nets regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors as have given rise to complaints and appear to deserve the interference of Parliament.

Your attention will also be directed to laws affecting friendly provident societies. These matters will require grave consideration.

I pray the Almighty to guide your deliberations In the House of Lords the address in reply to the speech from the Throne was moved by the Marquis

of Lothian and seconded by the Earl of Cadogan. An interesting political debate followed. The Duke of Somerset, a Liberal, made a sharp attack on Mr. Gladstone for listening to, if not encouraging, parties who favored the dismemberment of

Earl Grey, another Liberal, described the dissolution of the last Parliament as an act of political suicide, committed during temporary insanity. Lord Selborne, late Lord High Chancellor, came to

the Empire.

the detense of Mr. Gladstone with a brief but elequent vindication of his course.

The Earl of Derby, the new Minister of Foreign on England's policy abroad, intimated that the marriage of the Dake of Edinburgh with the Princess Marie Alexandrowna was a matter of political importance.

The address, which is a mere eche of the Reyal speech, was then adopted without amendment. In the House of Commons there was a very full attendance of members, and the galleries were crowded with spectators. Mr. Disracti, on entering the chamber was re-

ceived with triumphant cheers by his supporters. When the members had returned from the Chamber of Peers, the Speaker read a letter from Lord Chief-Justice Sir Alexander Cockburn, informing the House of the circumstances under which one of its members, Mr. Whalley, was adjudged guilty of and fined for contempt of court.

Mr. Anderson gave notice that on the Sist inst, he would call attention to the fact that British subjects had not yet received compensation for their losses in accordance with the previsions of the Treaty of An address in response to the Queen's speech, simi-

lar to that introduced in the Upper House, was moved by Sir William Stirling-Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. Callender.

Mr. Torrens moved an amendment to the address declaring that Parliament is conscious of its obligation specially to care for India, and assuring He Majesty of the interest and anxiety with which it wil consider measures to alleviate the distress in that country and to prevent its recurrence.

Mr. Gladstone rose and said he would not seek to place any obstacle in the way of the Government in its treatment of India. He deprecated the creation of the Commission to inquire into the relations of employers and the employed, but concluded by promising to give the new Government a fair trial Mr. Disraeli objected to the amendment moved by

Mr. Torrens as inopportune, and it was withdrawn The address was then adopted, and the Honse adjourned.

The Right Hon. Thomas E. Taylor, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster under the new Government has been reflected to Parliament from Dublin County by 961 majority.

AFFAIRS IN JAPAN. CAUSES OF THE ATTACK ON IWAKURA-MEMORIAL

TO THE MIKADO ATTACKING THE ADMINISTRA-TION-ORIGIN AND EXTENT OF THE INSURERCE TIONARY MOVEMENTS-THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR TREATY REVISION WITH FOREIGN REFRESENTA TIVES. SAN FRANCISCO, March 19.-The Associated

Press correspondent's summary of Japanese news has ust been received by the steamer Great Republic, which left Yokohama on the 24th of February. He gives an account of an attempt on the life of Iwakura, and says that some of his assailants were discovered and arrested toward the end of January, while the others still remain at large. It is understood that their motive was one of political hostility, which is felt toward Iwakura by many persons of various degrees of rank. It was never suspected that the assault was sanctioned by any of the real leaders of the antagonistic parties. These leaders made a much more formidable demonstration against the Government, of which I wakura is the most important member, early this month, by means of a memo rial to the Mikado, attacking the Administration to violent terms, and proposing radical and immediate re-forms, chiefly in the establishment of a national legisla-tive body. The intemperate tone of this document would have deprived it of all weight had it not been

signed by some of the most powerful and popular men in the country, among them Soyezima, the former vig crous Minister of Foreign Affairs. Great surprise was expressed at finding the name of this statesmen and some others of almost equal eminence appended to a seditious memorial; but no action was taken beyond the publication of a brief answer to the effect that the sub jects alluded to had long been under the consideration of the Government, and the establishment of a Parliament had some time previously been decided upon.

Immediately after the appearance of the memorial the

country was startled by reportr of insurgent gatherings

in Sagaken, better known as the old province of Fizen

reports which were wildly exaggerated and distorted by the Yokohama newspapers. The real facts of the insurrection up to the present time are not of an alarming character. The trouble first broke out in the neighbor hood of the City of Saga, and has not yet spread to any great distance. The estensible motive for rising was to demonstrate the desire of the Sumoural in that section for a war with Corea, but that is believed to be only the nominal rallying cry, the real grievance being the undoubted hardships which the political changes of the last three years have brought upon the military classes at Saga, to which place Soyezima be longs. No charge of complicity in this movement is made against him, and he continues to reside in freedon in Yedo. There is reason for believing, however, that many of the disaffected have taken advantage of the momentary excit ment caused by his memorial to make right be. The Government acted with great prompt ness, and thus far with thorough success. In the first centain inevitable casualties occurred. Some officials were seized, a bank was attacked, and an old castle was barned; but about the middle of the month troops were collected and dispatched to the scene of the disturbance, and the high civil officer Okubo, Minister of the Interior. was charged with the task of instituting official in quiries on the spot. On the 221 and 231 of the month news was received of the first encounter between the national troops and the insurgents, which took place probably on the 21st and 22%, at the small town of Todoroki and at Ahyama, in the near vicinity of Saga, which latter city had been in possession of the rebeis for several days. The number of Government troops was small, not exceeding a few hundred. The resist ance offered to them was so alight that the affairs were bardly considered in the light of serious skirmishes. The best results appear to have been the proofs of spirit and loyalty shown by the national soldiers. retreated in confusion toward Saga, upon which their assailants were advancing at last accounts.

youd the very limited space in which it first manifested itself. A messenger is known to have been sent to com municate with the Samoural of Satsama, but he was ordered out of the province in baste, and Semonza Saburno, the old ruler of Satsuma, was immediately sent southward, at his own request, to watch over affairs

that had taken place.

The extravagant statements in many of the Yoke ama papers are without foundation, but have the effect of creating much needless excitement. Those foreign representatives, who always a ek for opportunities for displaying their force, have been encouraged to everal characteristic demonstrations, and the citizens of Yokohama have raised the question of establishing volunteer corps for their own defense. Not a single on of the inflammatory reports which were current in that little settlement were confirmed, and the only certain facts relating to hostilities were those above recorded.

The Treasury Department has presented an earnest protest against future regulations of the tariff by reaties. Toward the last of January \$1,200,000 was paid e each of the three for ign representatives who had an nonneed their determination to excert the remainder of the Simonoseki indemnity in case certain commercial and other concessions should not be granted by the Japanese. These installments were for England, France, and Helland. No part of the amount due the United States was offered to Mr. Bingham, in accordance with

vishes expressed by hun to that effect. Yenomato will start for St. Petersburg next month, nd will carry out the regulations concerning the Maria Luz and Sagnation preliminaries watch were intrusted

to Hanabuso, Secretary of Lagation, in December last, The revision of the Japanese treaties makes but little rogress. Notes have passed between the foreign ministers and the Japanese Government, but the latter is using all its influence to have the ex-territorial juris diction abolished, which point the foreign representatives, baying been instructed by their respective Goveraments, refused to concede. The negotiations may be said at present to be in a dead-lock. It is said the budget for 1874, prepared by the Minister of Finance, shows a very favorable state of the national finances.

A scheme is under condenation for improving the har bor of Yokohama by building piers so as to shelter the anchorage from prevailing win's.

On the 20th of January the Empires received the wives and families of the English, United States, and Beignan Ministers. The Empirer has ordered that his own income shall pay tax equally what that of the subjects. He will pay about \$25,000. Kido, one of the late foreign

Emcassadors, has been appointed Minister of Education. The registration of the people has been disregarded for a long time, but it has now been accurately eccomplished, and the census shows the population of the Empire to be 33,160,000.

FRANCE AND GERMANY.

THE FRENCH EMBASSADOR TO BERLIN TO RESIGN ON ACCOUNT OF UNPLEASANT RELATIONS.

LONDON, Friday, March 20-5:30 a. m.
The Pally Telegraph has the following special disarch from Berlin: The Viscount de Gonfant-Biron, the French Embassa. dor, is about to resign in consequence of unpleasant re-lations with Prince Bismurck. An adjournment of the

Reschetag is probable on account of Essmarck's illness. RETURN OF TROOPS TROM ASHANTEE.

LONDON, Thursday, March 19, 1874. The troop-ship Tamar arrived at Portsouth to-day from the Gold Ceast, with the Possicers on

FOREIGN NOTES.

It is reported that the questions between Pern and China relative to the could traffic will be re-terred to Russia for arbitration. Communication has been opened between

the north slope and the air shaft of the Drummond collery. No signs of fire have been discovered. The press of China says the currency of China is depressed, and that the statistics of the Cham

her of Commerce of Hong Kong show an unsatisfactory The Unicers of Paris has resumed publication, the term for which it was suspended having ex-pired. It signalizes its reappearant by publishing a letter from the Pope denouncing the enemies of the

The United States Grand Jury of Brooklyn ave reindicted John D. Sanborn, Lucien Hawley, and A Vanderwerken, for alleged frauds on the revenue The charges in the main are the same as those on which the old indictment was found, only being different in form, so as ito meet the proof which could not be obtained from Washington in the drawing of the former indictment. The Grand Jury who have found the new indictment. The Grand Jury who have found the new indictment consist of respectable and wealthy men of Brookiyn. They have had before them a number of witnesses who gave important information. According to an agreement entered into on Wednesday, a consultation took place yesterday in the Brooklyn Chambers of the United States Cheuit Court between United States District Attorney Tenney and Assistant District. Attorney Hoxfe, representing the Government. United States District Attorney thinky and Assistant District Attorney Hoxfe, representing the Government, and ex-Judge Shipman, Gen. B. F. Traey, and Messrs, Erhart & Bechmann, counsel for Airred Vanderwerken, Lucien Hawkey and John D. Sanbarn, charged with conspiracy to defraud the revenue. The object of the conspiracy to defraud the revenue. The object of the conspiracy to defraud the revenue. The object of the conspiracy to defraud the revenue. The object of the conspiracy to defraud the revenue. The object to the conspiracy to defraud the result of the accused. After a short consultation, ex-Judge Shipman announced that he and bis associate counsels were compelled to ask for another day in order to determine whether the accused would be ready for trial on March 25. Finally it was nutually agreed that the meeting should be adjourned until this morning at 10 o'clock, when a definite answer will be given.

CONNECTICUT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. New-Haven, March 19. - An enthusiastic seeting of the State Constitutional Reform Association was held here to-day. Letters were read from the chief candidates on the State tickets of the Republican and